

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claims 13-15 and 18-21 are allowed.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-5 have been cancelled without prejudice. It is thus believed the rejection has been obviated.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph on grounds of lack of antecedent basis (formal issue).

Claim 14 has been amended without limitation to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 16 has been amended without limitation as recommended in the Office Action.

Claim 17 also was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph on grounds of lack of antecedent basis (formal issue) for "metal ion" and "resin base".

Claim 17 has been amended without limitation to provide formal antecedent basis for "metal ion". The term "resin base" has basis in independent claim 13.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claims 1-5 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over U.S. Patent 3655383.

While Applicants disagree with the rejection, claims 1-5 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 13, which claim was indicated to be allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter F. Corless (Reg. 33,860)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
(617) 439-4444